



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor's Scholars Awards Now Available

Middle school students get chance at \$500 for school or for the charity of their choice

SEATTLE – To recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Seattle's youth, Mayor Greg Nickels will give \$500 awards to 20 middle school students who are the "unsung heroes" of their communities. They're sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who have overcome obstacles or met challenges, given back to their communities, and maintained good academic standing.

"This is a great way for us to recognize the talents of Seattle's next generation of leaders," Nickels said. "Service to others is the foundation of a good community, and I'm glad to be able to help these young people with their education and service goals."

The scholarship contest is open to students who both live in and attend middle school in Seattle. They are required to write several short essays about how they contribute to their community and how they propose to use a \$500 cash award, which can be used for education or given to charity. In addition students are required to be in good academic standing and must provide several recommendations from adults familiar with the student's service work.

Applications are now available through Seattle Public Schools' middle and K-8 schools, private middle schools, Neighborhood Service Centers, community centers, branch libraries, and other neighborhood organizations. You can also get an application by calling the Office for Education at (206) 233-5118 or downloading it from <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/>. The application deadline is Tuesday, February 26.

Mayor Nickels will present the awards, along with a Mayor's Scholar jacket, at a reception at City Hall on Thursday, May 29. Two of the Mayor's Scholars will receive additional scholarships for study at a four-year college or public community/technical college: the Mayor's Leadership Award which is a \$2,500 scholarship, and a \$1,000

scholarship given to a Native American student, in honor of Leighton Hilbert, the artist who carved the Chief Seattle/city seal sculpture on the wall of the Norman B. Rice Room, on the 7th floor of City Hall.

The awards are coordinated by the City's Office for Education, a division of the Department of Neighborhoods, and funded entirely through private donations to the nonprofit Alliance for Education.

Get the mayor's inside view on initiatives to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm.

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